

Bureau of Parks



Discover the diversity of Baltimore City Parks!

By definition a park is an area of land set aside for public use; with few or no buildings, maintained for recreational and ornamental purposes; a landscaped city square; a large tract of rural land kept in its natural state and usually reserved for the enjoyment and recreation of visitors; a tract of land attached to a country house, especially when including extensive gardens, woods, or pastures; a stadium or enclosed playing field. Baltimore City has preserved more than 5, 700 acres of parkland that includes 433 park properties, a world-class conservatory, an arboretum, bird and wildlife gardens, world renowned sculpture and statuary, thousands of special events, sports and entertainment programs and more. Our properties range from the thousand-acre wilderness park to a quarter of an acre neighborhood playground.

In one of the larger parks, you may find yourself in the middle of a beautiful country estate. Visitors can take a peaceful walk in the woods on the back roads of Druid Hill Park, sit quietly and bird watch by the boat lake at Patterson Park, or play a relaxing round of golf in Clifton, Carroll and Forest parks. Our smaller community parks provide sitting areas to meet and greet your neighbors.

Baltimore City parks consist of over 200 playgrounds, 22 swimming pools, two skating rinks, 110 tennis courts, 18 miles of bike trail, and over 200 baseball diamonds and soccer fields. There's something for everyone from the energetic crowds of young skateboarders to the senior artist painting quietly by a fountain.



A Snapshot of 5 Major Baltimore City Parks

Baltimore City is proud to feature more than 5,700 acres of parkland and public space. Within city borders, the Bureau of Parks maintains over 300,000 street and 200,000 park trees.

Carroll Park

Carroll Park, Baltimore's third country landscape park (after Druid Hill and Patterson Parks) is significant for its association with the early development of the park system. Located in South west Baltimore, Carroll Park consists of 117 acres of land. Originally a part of Charles Carroll Barrister's Mount Clare estate, the park includes one of the two oldest Federal style mansions that are still standing in Baltimore. Today, Carroll Park boasts an assortment of athletic fields, which are home to the Carroll Park Little League, a neighborhood playground, a spectacular outdoor skating facility as well as a nine-hole golf course.

Clifton Park

Clifton Park is the former estate of Johns Hopkins. Once, it included a lake, islands, rustic bridges, and a marble statuary and sculpture collection. Johns Hopkins purchased a working farm in 1838. Over the next two decades, he improved the grounds and the house. The farmhouse was converted into an

Italian Villa with a tower that offers a wonderful view of the harbor and the entire city. Today, Clifton Park is home to an 18-hole golf course and clay tennis courts, but still maintains its rolling topography and character as an English landscape garden.

Druid Hill Park

Baltimore's first large municipal park, Druid Hill is commonly known for its shady lawns, rolling hills, picturesque water features and majestic forest. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the history of Druid Hill Park began over two centuries ago when the Susquehannock Indians ceded land that included the park's area in its holdings to Lord Baltimore. Druid Hill Park, purchased in 1860, was developed as part of a nationwide movement to provide large parks for urban dwellers. The construction of Druid Hill Lake began in 1863 and remains the largest earthen-dammed lake in the country. The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore was established in 1876 as a result of people donating various animals to the park. Other amenities include the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and the Botanic Gardens of Baltimore.

Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park

Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park constitutes one of the largest municipal tracts in the U.S. and is a distinctive natural environment within a highly urban setting. Originally conceived as a stream valley park by the Olmstead Brothers in their 1904 plan for the City of Baltimore, it was suggested that by associating the larger Gwynns Falls watershed with the stream valley that the entire area could be protected from the pressures of future development. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park is one of the few large tracts of land in Baltimore to retain its original collection of structures in relationship to its well-preserved natural landscape.

This integrity of setting contributes to the estate's architectural significance as a rural picturesque environment that was essential to the concept of a country estate in the mid 19th century.

Patterson Park

In 1827, Patterson Park began life as a park with six acres of land donated by William Patterson, a wealthy shipping merchant. He hoped to create a "public walk." It became the oldest park in Baltimore and the first gift of land given to a city for the purpose of public recreation. Patterson is Baltimore's most extensively used large park and remains an outstanding example of 19th century park design. The site is surrounded by extensive row house neighborhoods that rely solely on the park for open space. The Friends of Patterson Park is an active community group that supports the park through fundraising and cleanup projects. They were advocates of the Patterson Park master plan, which was completed in 1998.

City Parks Highlights

Canton Waterfront Park

3001 Boston St.
Baltimore, MD 21224
Boat ramp, picnic areas and fishing.

Carroll Park

1500 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230
Baseball, softball, basketball, football, soccer field, golf course, tennis courts, skateboard facility, playground, picnic areas, historical sites and City Farm gardens.

Chinquapin Run Park

1000 E. Belvedere Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21239
Baseball, football, playground, picnic areas and tennis courts.

Clifton Park

2801 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21218
Baseball, softball, football, soccer field, golf course, playground, picnic areas, swimming pool, band shell/stage and City Farm gardens.

Cylburn Arboretum

4915 Greenspring Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21209
Historical site with a Victorian style mansion, woodlands, trails, greenhouses, gardens, museums, herbarium, a horticultural library and group tours.

Druid Hill Park

2700 Madison Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217
Historical site with the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Safety City, the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens of Baltimore, the Baltimore Police K9 Unit, pavilions, groves, horseshoes, baseball/softball diamond, football/soccer field, stadium tennis courts, basketball courts, swimming pool, wading pool, sand volleyball court and City Farm gardens.

Farring-Baybrook Park

4501 Farring Court
Baltimore, MD 21225
Therapeutic Recreation Division, swimming pool, wading pool, playground and playing fields.

Federal Hill Park

800 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21230
Historical site with basketball, playground and picnic areas.

Fort Armistead Park

4001 Hawkins Point Road
Baltimore, MD 21226
Boat ramp, picnic areas and fishing.

Fort Smallwood Park

Fort Smallwood Road
Pasadena, MD 21122
Campgrounds, playground, picnic

areas, fishing and pavilions.

Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park

1920 Eagle Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21207
(410) 396-0440
www.gwynnsfallstrail.org
Historical site with the Carrie Murray Nature Center, the Gwynns Falls Trail, the Outward Bound Program, baseball/softball diamond, soccer/football field, playground, picnic areas, golf course, tennis court and City Farm gardens. The Gwynns Falls Trail is a hiking and biking trail that begins in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park and follows the stream to the Middle Branch and the Inner Harbor of the Patapsco River. Within Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park and its 1200 acres, there are also approximately 10 miles of existing natural paths wandering up and down the slopes of this wilderness park. The park offers a wonderful setting for hiking. Such trails are unique in an urban setting.



Hanlon Park

2400 Longwood St.
Baltimore, MD 21216
Baseball/softball diamond, football/soccer field, playground, picnic areas and tennis court.

Herring Run Park

3700 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21206
Connects to Montebello Lake area, baseball/softball diamond, football/

Gwynns Falls Trail

1920 Eagle Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21207
(410) 396-0440
(410) 448-0390
Email Address:
michael.strawbridge@baltimorecity.gov
Website: www.gwynnsfallstrail.org

Come and discover the Gwynns Falls Trail. This unique greenway connects 30 neighborhoods and 2,000 scenic acres of parkland located in the west and southwest of Baltimore City. Beginning at Interstate 70 eastern terminus and park & ride facility near Historic Franklinton, the Trail follows the Gwynns Falls stream valley through Gwynns Falls Park, Leakin Park, Leon Day Park, Carroll Park and Solo Gibbs Park to the Inner Harbor and the Middle Branch and Patapsco River. One of Baltimore's best-kept secrets, this mostly paved trail is great for picnicking, fishing, walking, jogging, rollerblading, bike riding or just relaxing.



soccer field, playground, picnic areas, trails and woodlands.

Middle Branch Park

Hanover St. & Waterview Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21230
The Rowing Club, a boat ramp, playground, picnic areas, fishing, hiking and biking trails.

The Washington Monument & Museum at Mt. Vernon Place

699 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
Info line (410) 396-0929
Museum (410) 396-1049
Open Wednesdays and
Sundays from 10a.m. - 5p.m.

In 1815, Baltimore's Washington Monument became the first major memorial to George Washington. The 178-foot monument was designed by Robert Mills, the architect of its famous sister monument in Washington, D.C. Located in the heart of beautiful Mt. Vernon, it's the centerpiece of Baltimore's oldest neighborhood. Inside the monument, the history of this great national treasure is traced through the exhibit "the Making of a Monument." Adventurous visitors can climb 228 steps to get to the top and see why this is known as the best view in Baltimore. For more information, please email Jennifer.Morgan@baltimorecity.gov.



Mt. Vernon Place

Charles & Monument Streets

Home to the Flower Mart, the Baltimore Book Festival and the annual holiday lighting of the Washington Monument, the cultural riches of Mt. Vernon are scattered throughout one of the most beautiful urban areas in the nation. George Washington surveys the neighborhood from atop a 178-foot high marble pillar, the first monument to him in the nation (1815) and the centerpiece of Mt. Vernon Place. Four elegant European style parks, filled with magnificent bronze statuary, fountains and flowers flank the monument. The four squares of the park are surrounded by stylish 19th century townhouses, tiny back houses and carriage houses, all of which make up the diverse community that has always been Mt. Vernon.

Patterson Park

2601-A E. Baltimore St.
Baltimore, MD 21224

Historical site with a baseball/softball diamond, soccer/football field, playground, picnic areas, fishing, tennis court, pavilions, indoor ice rink, pagoda and City Farm gardens.

Reedbird Park

201 W. Reedbird Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21225

Baseball/softball diamonds, soccer field, basketball court, tennis court, playground, picnic areas and swimming pool.

Riverside Park

1800 Covington St.
Baltimore, MD 21225

Historical site with a baseball diamond,

football field, basketball court, swimming pool, playground and picnic areas.

Robert E. Lee Park

Falls Rd. & Lakeside Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21210

Historical site with the Lake Roland Dam, a playground, picnic areas, fishing, pavilions, trails and woodlands.

Wyman Park

501 W. 30th St.
Baltimore, MD 21211

Baseball/softball diamond, soccer/football field, playground, picnic areas, trails and the woodlands.

Forestry Division

Joseph Burch, Acting City Arborist
2600 Madison Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 396-6110

One of the most proactive Divisions of Parks is the Forestry Division. A small group of dedicated men and women from this division maintains over 500,000 street and park trees and surrounding green space on a yearly basis. Like any other living or growing organism, trees require water, air, sunlight and a little TLC. That's why everyday, regardless of the weather, our crews are out planting, pruning, removing and maintaining city trees.

The natural growth of trees keeps the Forestry Division very busy. Often, tree branches die or grow in directions that get in the way of an urban environment. Our crews respond by inspecting trees in the city's parks, sidewalks and medians. Trees that are given the highest priority are the dangerous and diseased trees. Weak trees have to be removed before others become infected or fall unexpectedly. The next priority is pruning and treating other

problem areas. These services help to improve the urban environment and enhance city living.

Have a problem? Call "311"

Citizens should never try to deal with a public tree problem on their own even if it's in front of their home! They should call 311 and report the problem. Trees on private property, however, are the responsibility of the homeowner. A list of reputable local tree companies is available from the Forestry Division.

What can you do to help us keep Baltimore City's forests healthy?

You can help the city and your community by keeping your tree pit area clean and free from weeds. Homeowners are discouraged from increasing soil height in tree pits to grow flowers and other plants because this adversely affects the root system of the tree. Watering and mulching trees during warmer months keeps it healthy. Pet owners can help out by keeping their animals out of these areas, but if it's an emergency – remember to pick up!

Horticulture Division

William Vondrasek
Chief Horticulturist
(410) 396-0180

The Horticulture Division is responsible for many of the pretty flowers and plants located throughout the City of Baltimore at the parks, gateways and medians. The Horticulture staff maintains annual and tulip beds in City Parks and in front of City Hall. They prune shrubbery in City Parks, maintain the perennial Gateway plantings and operate the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory with its four ecosystems, orchid display and three seasonal flower shows.

The division also operates the beautiful city hideaway - the Cylburn Arboretum.

Horticulture provides great city traditions with signature events, workshops, tours, garden walks and greenhouse sales for Baltimoreans to look forward to every season.

City Farms

Coleen McCarty,
Program Coordinator
4915 Greenspring Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21209
(410) 396-7839



The City Farms program was designed as a response to the problem of urban hunger and malnutrition. In 1978, the first City Farm in Baltimore was established at Clifton Park. Today, there are seven large community gardens called City Farms. These gardens are located in Carroll, Clifton, DeWees/Woodbourne, Druid Hill, Fort Holabird, Leakin and Patterson parks. The idea was to provide a clean and safe garden complete with protective fencing and a water source where inner-city residents can grow their own food.

The program began with federal funding. Today, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks' Horticulture Division runs the program. Membership is open to all Baltimore City residents. The yearly plot rental fee is \$20. Experienced and novice gardeners young and old are welcomed. In partnership with the Baltimore Area Master Gardeners, Parks and People Foundation and others, the City Farms program offers classes and how-to

seminars on gardening; hands-on projects at the City Farm sites; group "clean up" days at the gardens' participation in the annual "Best of Baltimore" Garden contest and other special events. Each year, during the main harvest season, a city farms supper is held on the beautiful grounds of Cylburn Arboretum where gardeners from all over the city can meet one another, share their garden bounty, and participate in an awards and recognitions ceremony.

Although the original purpose of the City Farms program was to help folks feed themselves, the effects of the urban gardens extend far beyond food production. The City Farm programs offers city residents a green haven to recreate, work the soil, get to know one another, exchange ideas and seeds and share knowledge with others. In short, the City Farms program provides a simple way to help nourish the body, the soul and the community.

Cylburn Arboretum

Melissa Grim,
Greenhouse Supervisor
4915 Greenspring Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21209
(410) 396-0180
www.cylburnassociation.org

Cylburn Arboretum is a public garden and nature preserve encompassing over 200 acres. It has more than 3 miles of nature trails through a mature piedmont forest, a man-made wetland area and a historic mansion. Cylburn also features a variety of large specimen trees and seasonal gardens including: formal, shade, backyard and display gardens.

The Horticultural Division manages Cylburn Arboretum in partnership with the Cylburn Arboretum Association (CAA), the resident non-profit organization.

Seasonal events take place throughout the year including spring Market Day and the annual FestiFall celebration. Monthly activities include afternoon teas, horticultural lectures, workshops and open houses. The first floor of the mansion is available to rent for meetings, workshops and wedding receptions. The gardens may also be rented for wedding ceremonies and photo shoots.

The grounds at Cylburn Arboretum are open year-round from 6 a.m. to dusk. The mansion is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., excluding holidays. There is no charge to visit.

For a calendar of events, to view photos, story-time information, or for other general information, please visit www.cylburnassociation.org. For information regarding events and programs, please call (410) 367-2217.

The Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens of Baltimore

Kate Blom, Conservatory Supervisor
Druid Hill Park at Gwynns Falls Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 396-0008

After almost two years of major renovations and expansions, the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens of Baltimore has reopened its doors to the public. The Conservatory features year-round displays of plant material in five distinct areas of the facility: the 1888 Palm House, the Orchid Room, Mediterranean House, Tropical House and Desert House. There are 35 flowerbeds in the 1½-acre garden that provides interest and color from early spring until late fall. In addition, three major flower displays are planned during the year, which includes the Spring Flower Show, the Fall Chrysanthemum and the Holiday Poinsettia displays.



Annual public events held at the conservatory include the Easter Egg Hunt, an Afternoon in the Garden, a Fall Open House and a Holiday Open House. The two new pavilions can be rented for special events and meetings. For more information on fees or hours of operation, please contact the conservatory at (410) 396-0008. Grounds are open to the public with a minimum donation of \$2 per person for guided tours.

Office of Permits

3001 East Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 396-7070

Your event may require a **General Park Permit** (private event of less than 350 people with grilling, alcoholic beverages and/or set up of children's amusement devices). The Office of Permits will need at least 30 days notice to prepare a permit.

Special Event Permit (event open to the public and/or expected attendance of 350 or more at a private event) will require 60 days notice.

Festival Permit (2,500 plus participants) requires an application to be submitted at least 120 days prior to the proposed "festival" date (s).

Inner Harbor Permit (Kaufman Pavilion, McKeldin Square and Rash Field

East) requires an application to be submitted at least 8 weeks prior to the requested event date (s).

To download permit application(s), please consult our website: www.baltimorecity.gov and then click permits, or call (410) 396-7070 for assistance.

Park Conservation and Community Outreach

Fran Spero,
Director
2600 Madison Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 396-0339

The parks are Baltimore City's green jewels. Our more than 5,700 acres of urban parkland are home to 1,100 acres of urban forests, 30 miles of streams, countless species of local wildlife and migratory bird populations.

The Park Conservation and Community Outreach (PCCO) Division coordinates park improvement, maintenance and environmental enhancement/restoration projects in city parks through the BELIEVE in a greener Baltimore, Community Forestry and the Urban Weed Warrior programs. PCCO works with corporate, religious, academic, non-profit and neighborhood volunteer groups to design and implement cleaning and greening projects in parks citywide.

Be a fit and fabulous family in 2005-2006

It's a walk in the park...

Why wait any longer? This year, be a part of Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks' family wellness project, "It's a walk in the park..." In no time, your family can be on its way to a more fit, fun and informed lifestyle. Spend some quality time in Baltimore's

most beautiful parks while you learn about a variety of topics. Each family will receive a passport and a journal to document their progress and activities. Participants may choose from one of the many activities listed in the Recreation and Parks' program guide. Families can also choose from health programs available through some of Baltimore's great area hospitals: Johns Hopkins, Sinai Hospital and Harbor Hospital. The process is simple: participate in an activity and get a stamp in your passport. Then, you're on your way to a happier and healthier 2005-2006.

Families are encouraged to make a commitment to "It's a Walk in the Park..." In addition to the journals, each family should collect a minimum of eight stamps in their passports to qualify as a "fit and fabulous" family. All those who successfully complete the project will receive an award!

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks sponsors "It's a walk in the park."

Project supporters: the American Heart Association, U.S.S. Constellation, Friends of Patterson Park, Harbor Hospital, Johns Hopkins Occupational Health, Lifebridge Health at Sinai Hospital, Seaport Taxi, Sinai Hospital and Whole Foods.

For more information on the family wellness project, please call (410) 396-7900 or email green@baltimorecity.gov.

BELIEVE in a greener Baltimore
501(c) 3 program, through the
Baltimore City Foundation

Jennifer Morgan
2600 Madison Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 396-0729

We encourage community and corporate benefactors to become more concerned, involved and conscious about the benefits we all receive by having great parks in the city! Baltimore City needs your help to make our parks the greatest in the country. How can you help? Participate in one of our many park improvement projects and pass the word to friends and neighbors that everyone should get involved in making their neighborhood park the best that it can be. You can also donate to or become a sponsor for the BELIEVE in a greener Baltimore program. All donations go directly to implement park service projects and are used to purchase tools, trees, plants and other supplies to maintain, promote and beautify city parks. For additional information, please call the PCCO office or e-mail green@baltimorecity.gov.

Community Forestry

Sharon Schueler
2600 Madison Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 396-0339

Trees provide so many benefits to the citizens of Baltimore. They provide cleaner air, shade and cooler temperatures in the summer and habitat for urban wildlife! Volunteer with the PCCO Community Forestry pro-gram to plant trees in city parks so that these valuable resources will continue to provide benefits for future generations!

Urban Weed Warriors Program

2600 Madison Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 396-0339

Invasive/exotic plants are invading Baltimore's forests! We need your help to control these invaders so that our forests can support the native vegetation and the local wildlife that depend on these native plants as a food source.



If you would like additional information about invasive/exotic plants in Baltimore, to participate in our Urban Weed Warriors Training Program or to volunteer for a project, please contact the PCCO office or e-mail green@baltimorecity.gov.

Urban Park Rangers

You may have seen them about patrolling our major parks on foot or on bicycle. The Park Ranger program was established to continue our quest to make Baltimore City's parks the best that they can be. Urban Park Rangers serve as uniformed goodwill ambassadors to the parks. By educating the public and enforcing park rules and regulations, they provide an orientation to individual parks and basic visitor services. They also educate the public about the park system's historical value. Rangers encourage greater park use and act as deterrents to individuals who, through their actions, discourage law-abiding citizens from visiting the parks. The Park Rangers will continue to work with neighboring communities and individuals to improve the park system and to help make Baltimore City's parks destinations where everyone can come to enjoy and relax. To find out more about the Park Ranger program or to become involved, please contact Michael Strawbridge at (410) 396-0440.



Volunteer Opportunities at Recreation and Parks

- Administrative/Clerical/Computer Coaches
- Community Gardens
- Computer Specialists
- Corporate and Foundation Research Assistants
- Environmental Education Activities
- Garden Maintenance
- Graphics
- Grant Writers
- Greenhouse Assistants
- Horticultural Maintenance in Conservatories
- Marketing and Media
- Mentors
- Neighborhood Clean Ups
- Park and Playground Beautification and Maintenance
- Partnership Development
- Planning and Research
- Schoolyard Landscaping
- Special Events
- Street Tree Plantings and Maintenance
- Tour Guides
- Trail Enhancement
- Tree Collections Maintenance
- Tutors
- Watershed and
- Woodland Restoration
- Woodland Trails Maintenance
- Young Adults With Developmental Disabilities

Volunteer Contacts:

- Administrative Headquarters
(410) 396-7900
- Baltimore Conservatory
(410) 396-0180
- Cylburn Arboretum
(410) 367-2217
- Leisure Services
(410) 396-7010
- Parks and Conservation Outreach
(410) 396-0339
- Special Events
(410) 396-7012
- Therapeutic Recreation
(410) 396-7072
- Youth And Adult Sports
(410) 396-6136



“A Monumental Occasion”

**You're invited to the annual holiday lighting of
Baltimore's Washington Monument
Thursday, December 1st in Mt. Vernon**

For more information call 410-396-7900